

Soviet foreign minister in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin flew to Damascus Friday after announcing with his U.S. counterpart James Baker that a Middle East peace conference between Israel and the Arabs would take place in Madrid on Oct. 30. Mr. Pankin praised Syria's support for the peace conference and said Moscow would work hard to make it a success. Syria had shown wisdom, flexibility and long vision in helping solve problems preventing the holding of the conference, Mr. Pankin said. "I decided with Mr. Baker during talks (in Israel) earlier today to issue invitations to the conference in Madrid on Oct. 30," Mr. Pankin said. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, who welcomed Mr. Pankin at Damascus airport, said Madrid was a venue suggested by Syria as venue for the peace talks. Mr. Sharaa assured Israel of still not saying a definite "yes" to peace efforts. "Arabs have done everything possible to facilitate the holding of the conference but Israel until this moment is still not making a clear 'yes' to the peace efforts," Mr. Sharaa said. The Syrian foreign minister said Damascus believed the substance of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 meant that Israel should withdraw from the occupied Arab territories to establish a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

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Spain formally accepts peace conference

MADRID (R) — Spain Friday formally accepted a plan brokered by the United States and the Soviet Union to hold Middle East peace talks in Madrid from Oct. 30. "The Spanish government will do everything in its power to make this conference, which will take place in Madrid, a real instrument of peace between peoples to which it feels linked by so many historical, cultural and friendship ties," an official statement said. The conference venue was not yet known, a U.S. official said. The official said Mr. Baker, en route to Washington from the Middle East, would meet Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to discuss arrangements for the conference opening. He would spend a few hours in the Spanish capital. The choice of Madrid as the conference venue came as a complete surprise. News media, quoting diplomats and other sources, had reported for several days that the conference would be held in the Swiss city of Lausanne. U.S. officials said Lausanne had never been considered.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Peace conference to begin in Madrid Oct. 30

Bush and Gorbachev issue invitations and plan to attend opening of parley

Israel agrees to participate after lengthy talks with Baker and Soviet restoration of diplomatic relations after 24 years

Baker and Pankin make joint announcement of peace talks

Combined agency dispatches

THE UNITED STATES and the Soviet Union announced on Friday that they would invite Israel and the Arabs to a Middle East peace conference beginning Oct. 30 in Madrid, Spain.

"The road to peace will not be simple," U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said in a joint news conference with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin in occupied Jerusalem. "Old suspicions will not disappear overnight."

In Washington and Moscow, presidential spokesmen announced that George Bush of the U.S. and Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union would be attending the talks.

The president plans to be there to open this historic occasion," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Friday.

Mr. Bush, in a statement released by the White House, said he was "extremely pleased" that invitations to the conference were being issued.

"I myself plan to be there to help open this historic gathering, one with the potential to bring true peace and security to the peoples of the area," the president said.

As the invitation makes clear, the objective of the effort is nothing less than a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, to be achieved through a two-track approach of direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states and Israel and the Palestinians based upon U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338," Mr. Bush said.

"Mikhail Gorbachev will take part in the Middle East peace conference in Madrid," said a Soviet spokesman in Moscow.

Gorbachev spokesman said earlier in the week that it would be logical for the two presidents to open the conference.

The Madrid talks are planned to bring together Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and representatives of the Palestinians.

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Soviet Union restores formal ties with Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Soviet Union restored diplomatic relations with Israel Friday after a 24-year rupture.

The announcement came in a joint statement by Foreign Ministers Boris Pankin of the Soviet Union and David Levy of Israel after a hectic day of diplomatic activity led to U.S. and Soviet efforts to induce Israel to attend a proposed Middle East peace conference.

The statement said the Soviet Union and Israel firmly believe that the reestablishment of diplomatic ties "fully serves the interests of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, the establishment of a lasting peace and stability in this region and further development of international cooperation."

The road to peace, and I think we both understand this exceedingly well, will not be simple... it will be extremely difficult with many problems, many hitches and probably many interruptions," Mr. Baker said.

"This invitation holds the hope of a new era in the Middle East. The hope of an era marked by acceptance not rejection, the hope of an era marked by dialogue not by violence, the hope of an era marked by cooperation not by conflict," Mr. Baker said.

"The two sides state their readiness to maintain their bilateral relations in accordance with the United Nations charter,

30. Israel has long insisted the

Soviet Union would have to restore ties with the Jewish state as a condition to participating in peace talks. The Soviets have promised to renew ties as soon as the date is set for the conference.

Moscow broke the ties after the 1967 war.

Mr. Levy said the renewal of relations will allow Israel to conduct a dialogue with the Soviet Union and discuss Middle East issues "openly, directly and not through other parties."

The statement said the Soviet Union and Israel firmly believe that the reestablishment of diplomatic ties "fully serves the interests of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, the establishment of a lasting peace and stability in this region and further development of international cooperation."

At a news conference at his office, Mr. Levy linked the achievement to the efforts of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to convene Middle East peace talks.

The announcement on restoring ties said:

"In the interest of the two nations, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the state of Israel have decided to restore their diplomatic relations as of the day of the issuance of this joint statement and exchange diplomatic representations at the level of embassies."

The two sides state their readiness to maintain their bilateral relations in accordance with the United Nations charter,

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(Continued on page 5)

Sharon: U.S. wants to force Israel back to 1967 borders

OXFORD, England (Agencies) — Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon Friday accused the United States of attempting to force Israel back into its 1967 borders as part of a Middle East peace initiative.

Mr. Sharon argued, would produce "not a peace conference, but a war conference."

His own policy of accelerated Jewish settlement in the occupied territories, he argued, was a sure guarantee against war.

In a speech inaugurating the new building of the L'Chaim Society, a student group associated with the Herut-Labavitch Movement, Mr. Sharon said the principal "danger" to the Western world lies in the "primitive, fanatic and murderous" government of Iran and the Arab World.

The United States and the West are supporting these countries against Israel. If this is the faith of the "new order," I am beginning to wonder what was actually so bad in the old order. It is certainly neither a fair order nor a just order," Mr. Sharon said.

"It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the intention of the present American government is to shove Israel back into the impossible 1967 borders," he added. "Forcing Israel into these borders will lead to its destruction."

The initiative undertaken by Secretary of State James Baker,

Mr. Sharon said there would be

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan welcomes conference, says results more important

By P.V. Vivekanand with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan welcomes the American-Soviet announcement that a Middle East peace conference will begin in Madrid, Spain, on Oct. 30 and hopes that the meeting will lead to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif said Friday.

While describing the choice of Madrid as the venue for the conference as a pleasant surprise and the Spanish capital as a "wonderful city," Mr. Sharif said, "What is more important is the substance and results" of the first direct Arab-Israeli peace talks after decades of conflict.

"We are only at the beginning of a tortuous road," the minister told the Jordan Times. "We hope that the road will lead to a just and lasting peace, including the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people."

Asked whether he now expected a smooth process in the run-up to the

peace conference, Mr. Sharif referred to reports of last-minute snags posed by Israel, including a cabinet consideration on the issue scheduled for Sunday.

"We don't know whether these problems have been overcome," he said. "We have to wait and see."

It was not immediately known whether Jordan had actually received the conference invitation, issued jointly by U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The invitations were sent by the State Department in cables to the embassies in each country. The embassies, in turn, were to deliver them to the foreign ministry of each invite.

Information Minister Sharif spoke after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin announced in occupied Jerusalem that presidents Bush and Gorbachev were issuing invitations to the Arabs and Israel to attend the peace conference.

A senior U.S. official said the Palestinian delegation had been given to senior Palestinian negotiator Faisal Al Husseini who has met Mr. Baker on all his visits. It was delivered by

U.S. consul Molly Williamson.

Mr. Husseini said he welcomed the conference.

"We are happy that there is going to be a peace conference," he told reporters.

"Madrid is an historic city and it is close to us. It is also convenient because it has an office of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) there."

Egypt also welcomed the invitation to the peace conference, and said it would pave the way to security and stability in the region.

Butros Ghali, deputy permanent representative to the UN, said the parties concerned will cooperate and do their utmost to achieve the aim of a peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue, so as to have a comprehensive, permanent peace in the region.

In Vienna, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said he was ready for talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir about the peace conference.

(Continued on page 5)

Mystery surrounds the final shape of Palestinian delegation

By Lannie K. Andon Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Mystery surrounded the final composition of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East conference Friday as Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials insisted that the organization had not abandoned demands for the representation of Palestinians in the diaspora and Arab Eastern Jerusalem.

Judging by various and sometimes contradictory accounts of the PLO Central Council (PCC) resolutions, the PLO was yesterday still seeking a formula to reconcile American and Israeli terms for Palestinian representation with PCC conditions for inclusion of representatives from outside and inside the occupied territories, including Arab Jerusalem.

According to PLO officials in Tunis, the PCC resolutions, which have not been published in detail as yet, authorized Palestinian participation at the peace conference but did not drop the representation of the Palestinians in the diaspora and of East Jerusalem.

The PLO officials' assertions appeared to contradict reports that a list of names, exclusively drawn from the Israeli-occupied territories, had been handed over to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Friday. The PLO officials contacted in Tunis refused to explain the contradiction but insisted there was no final list submitted to the Americans.

Officials contacted differed on their interpretation of the PCC resolutions. By Friday night there still appeared to be major differences in Tunis over the PCC decision.

sions. Some officials insisted that the resolutions stipulated an immediate halt to Israeli settlements and the representation of all Palestinians at the conference as two final conditions for Palestinian participation. Others said that it was a qualified acceptance.

Some even indicated that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had ignored the conditional acceptance and given the green light to Palestinian Faisal Husseini to convey the PLO's acceptance to Mr. Baker without consulting with the executive committee.

In the final analysis, however, despite the differences the PLO did not backtrack on its decision to authorize Palestinian participation, according to those PLO officials contacted by the Jordan Times.

The controversy over the issue had reached a point late Friday that Abdal Rahim Malouh, the representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), was on the verge of resigning from the PLO Executive Committee, sources said.

Sources in Tunis said late Friday that the name of the Palestinian delegation will be published in Jerusalem's Al Fajr newspaper quoting a Palestinian spokesman. The sources did not reveal the names. Agencies add — the main obstacle to the peace conference has been Israel's insistence on vetting the Palestinian delegation to exclude the PLO.

Palestinians gave Mr. Baker names of some of their delegates.

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Text of Baker-Pankin announcement of Middle East peace conference in Madrid Oct. 30

THE FOLLOWING IS the text of the announcement by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin on issuing invitations to a Middle East peace conference in Madrid October 30:

Mr. Baker (began by apologizing for holding the news conference so close to the Jewish Sabbath):

"But today is an important day and I think that this is an important moment. An American secretary of state and a Soviet foreign minister are together in Jerusalem for

the first time in history.

"What's more the Soviet Union has today restored full relations with Israel after a break of 24 years.

"But I think that our joint presence here today represents something more. Foreign Minister Pankin and I are pleased to announce that President Bush and President Gorbachev are today inviting Israel, Arab states, and Palestinians to attend a Middle East peace conference to be held beginning Oct. 30th in Madrid. That conference is to be followed by direct nego-

tiations designed to achieve real peace.

"We have witnessed new beginnings in other parts of the world. The negotiating process that we are seeking to launch with this invitation holds the hope of a new era in the Middle East. The hope of an era marked by acceptance and not by rejection, the hope of an era marked by dialogue and not by violence, the hope of an era marked by cooperation and not by conflict, and the hope of an era marked by hope itself and not

despair.

"This invitation offers the peoples in this region a pathway to ending an era of confrontation and it offers a basis for a new future.

"The road to peace, and I think we both understand this exceedingly well, will not be simple... it will be extremely difficult with many problems, many hitches and probably many interruptions along the way. Old suspicions will not disappear quickly. The gaps are real and the gaps will not be easily overcome. So we have

no illusions about the hard work that lies ahead.

"But we take encouragement from the issuance of these invitations which is the product of work of the last eight months. As we have all along, we intend to take this one step at a time. And so if we receive positive responses to this invitation, we will be taking one more step forward toward achieving the peace and security that the peoples of the Middle East have so long been denied.

Mr. Pankin: "Ladies and gentlemen, Secretary of State

James Baker has just informed you of the joint Soviet-American statement. Therefore I have no other papers to read out to you. I can only say that I fully share what has just been said by Secretary Baker. However, I'd like to add a few comments.

"The stage that we have now come to represents a very important turning point for the entire situation in the Middle East. We have come a long way and we have come together. We

made an important contribution to the convening of this conference in our capacity as future co-chairmen of the conference just as important contributions have been made by all the other sides in their hard and untiring efforts.

"We are convinced that history is now holding out an opportunity that we must not pass up. And I urge all the participants of the conference to take this opportunity.

"As has just been mentioned by Secretary Baker, we have restored full diplomatic relations. The state of Israel and the Soviet Union have signed a joint Soviet-Israeli statement together with my country's Foreign Minister David Levy to that effect.

"I want to emphasize that this is a logical and natural step which is fully consistent with current reality. This step became possible because of and thanks to the considerable success in bringing the convening of the conference closer."

Barzani takes autonomy deal to Kurds

SHILADIZA, Iraq (R) — Kurdish rebel leader Massoud Barzani, casting aside his customary reserve, has taken to the road to drum up support for a peace and autonomy deal he has negotiated with the government.

Mr. Barzani, under pressure from veteran Kurdish nationalist Jalal Talabani, his chief rival for the hearts and minds of Iraq's Kurds, is touring north western Iraq preaching reconciliation.

"Since 1961 we have fought and sacrificed enough for autonomy 10 times over," he told 10,000 supporters in Shiladiza Thursday. "There is no point in fighting when we can win our rights through negotiations."

Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) leader Barzani, whose family has been at the forefront of the Kurdish nationalist struggle for two generations, brought his draft autonomy agreement back from Baghdad in mid-August.

It was the product of negotiations launched in April by Mr. Talabani shortly after the collapse of a post-Gulf war Kurdish rebellion.

But Mr. Talabani, who heads the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), immediately attacked Mr. Barzani's draft agreement, saying it surrendered Kurdish land and freedoms.

Differences between the two men, key members of the Kurdistan Front umbrella alliance, have brought negotiations with Baghdad to a halt, leaving Kurdish balanced precariously between war and peace.

Shiladiza, target of Turkish planes hunting for separatist Kurds from Turkey last week, was Mr. Barzani's first stop on a tour that was expected to take in the KDP stronghold of Dohuk and Zakho.

About two dozen military and political officials from the Iraqi government, including the deputy governor of Dohuk province and

senior police and army officers, greeted Mr. Barzani in Shiladiza.

"Right now we are looking for autonomy," he told the crowd. "No one can deny us as Kurds our right to self determination. Just as European peoples have that right, so do we."

Mr. Barzani said Kurds had an opportunity to achieve peacefully their political agenda, which he defined as autonomy for Kurdistan and democracy for Iraq.

Mr. Talabani, for his part, is testing support for Kurdish aspirations in an extended tour of Western countries.

The rivalry between the two, largely undeclared, was cast a shadow over the negotiations.

The agreement does not include key Kurdish areas such as the oil centre of Kirkuk and the towns of Kanquin and Sinjar in the proposed autonomous region. It is also vague in its guarantee of Kurdish political rights.

Mr. Talabani sees these as fatal flaws. Mr. Barzani sees them as deficiencies to be worked out over time.

In a thinly-veiled dig at his rival, Mr. Barzani said:

"The support of the Kurdish people is more important to me than all the support that Kurdistan is getting from the outside world."

The United States air force F-111's stationed in Turkey to deter Iraqi harassment of Kurds, meanwhile, put on a spectacular 20-minute display of loud, low-flying as Iraqi Kurds and Arabs alike waited for Mr. Barzani to arrive.

Rashed Hamid Ibrahim, chief of traffic police in Dohuk city, was one Iraqi official who stood for several hours waiting.

"I am happy to join in welcoming a leader who will sacrifice everything for autonomy and the Kurdish people," he said. "From reading the news and talking to the people, I feel that the autonomy negotiations have reached their final stages."

Israel has lost trust in U.S. ambassador says

TEL AVIV (R) — The United States wants Israel to withdraw from nearly all territory it occupied in the 1967 war, Israel's Ambassador to Washington Zalman Shoval said in an interview published Friday.

The Americans have said in the past they want Israel to return for peace with its Arab neighbours, but have never spelled out how much land Israel should give up.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said repeatedly Israel would not return any Arab land, arguing it was either part of the "Biblical land of Israel" or vital for "national security."

Israel occupied the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights in 1967. It "annexed" East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

Mr. Shoval, who has met frequently with U.S. officials in the past few months to negotiate terms for a Middle East peace conference, said the Americans are determined to push far-reaching Israeli concessions.

"The United States wants us to go back to the 1967 borders with minor adjustments and refuses to recognise the annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights," he said in an interview with the Maariv daily.

The interview was published as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was meeting Israeli and Palestinian leaders to win final agreement for a peace conference.

U.S. policy has always backed U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which urges withdrawal from the occupied territories in ex-

change for secure borders for every state in the region.

But Mr. Shoval said only the end of superpower competition and the new alliances shaped by the "Gulf war have enabled Washington to push for Israeli concessions."

As a result of the tougher approach, Israel "has lost something of its trust" in the United States, Mr. Shoval said.

"We don't have the feeling that we can rely on the United States concerning issues that in the past were seen as vital in our eyes," Mr. Shoval said.

He cited the recent bitter disputes between Israel and Washington over Jewish settlements in the occupied lands, over the Israeli request for \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees for immigrant absorption and other issues.

"All these are not signs of proper relations," Mr. Shoval said. "But at the same time, we shouldn't exaggerate and describe the United States as hostile."

Mr. Shoval said Israel has some ways of influencing the U.S. administration, mainly through public opinion in the United States and through Congress, which is traditionally friendly to Israel.

"This gives Israel a certain room to manoeuvre," he said.

But he noted that such attempts were not always successful. He cited the "embarrassment" of the Jewish lobby it failed to convince Congress to battle against President George Bush's decision to delay the loan guarantees.

The interview was published as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was meeting Israeli and Palestinian leaders to win final agreement for a peace conference.

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U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which urges withdrawal from the occupied territories in ex-

U.N. official: Iraq could resume nuclear programme

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iraq's nuclear know-how is so sophisticated that it could resume its shattered atomic weapons programme unless blocked by constant foreign inspections, a senior U.N. inspector told senators Thursday.

If the allied bombings had not interrupted its ambitions programme during the Gulf war, he testified, Iraq would have manufactured sufficient fuel for a nuclear bomb within 12 to 18 months.

The assessment was furnished by David Kay, the American deputy leader of the international inspection team that is searching out and destroying the Iraqi nuclear programme.

Mr. Kay, who works for the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) based in Vienna, reported to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee about his team's seven missions to Iraq in the past four months.

He said intelligence information provided by the United States and its allies has been invaluable to the United Nations' project.

Sen. John Glenn introduced a resolution that recommends systematic sharing of such information with the IAEA to bolster its efforts to block the spread of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Glenn also proposed denying business to any private U.S. or foreign company that takes part in the spread of such weapons.

Mr. Kay said Iraq is doing much to hide its nuclear facilities from ground inspectors and U.S. spy satellites.

The number of deception strategies is impressive in its breadth and skill," he said.

Mr. Kay said there was "a very high probability that Iraq is still withholding information," particularly on its work to enrich uranium through gas centrifuges, its weapons designs and its international procurement network.

Although allied bombings disrupted Iraq's nuclear programme earlier this year, Mr. Kay said, "the know-how remains firmly in the hands of the Iraqi personnel who directed and carried out the programme."

He added: "Clearly, a long-term monitoring and verification programme of substantial stringency must be maintained in Iraq to ensure that a clandestine programme does not restart."

A U.N. team is working in Iraq and an eighth mission is being prepared, he said.

Iraq has rejected a U.N. resolution adopted last week that calls for indefinite monitoring of Iraqi nuclear and military facilities. A U.S. official said that without Iraqi cooperation, the world community would have a hard time preventing resumption of the programme.

Asked if American firms had sold equipment to Iraq, Mr. Kay said there was "no region of the world that didn't contribute" to the Iraqi nuclear programme.

He said the company names will be given to the countries where they are registered and then to the U.N. Security Council, which will decide whether to make them public.

Mr. Kay said the IAEA also is investigating the complex web of financing for Iraq's acquisitions.

A congressional source, who spoke on condition that he not be identified, said some European banks have urged the agency to keep such information secret so they can avoid embarrassment.

From all the material and documents unearthed so far, Mr. Kay asserted, Iraq's nuclear programme was clearly a threat to the entire region.

Officials estimate some 100,000

On eve of peace talks, Mideast is edgy, hostility is high

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

IT SHOULD BE a moment of jubilation, after 43 years of conflict and five wars, Israelis and Arabs are about to talk peace.

But throughout the Middle East, the mood is edgy and anxious, expectations are low, neither side trusts the other and both are digging into hardened positions.

The impression is that both Israel and Arab states are being dragged kicking and screaming to a peace conference more because they want to avoid offending the United States, the world's only superpower, than because of any real feeling of reconciliation.

One moment of straight talking on Wednesday by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharar at a news conference with Secretary of State James Baker after talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad illustrated this point.

Yes, said Mr. Sharar in answer to a question, Syria was going to the peace conference, but no, he would not shake the hand of his Israeli counterpart, David Levy.

"This very hand that you would like me to shake is very guilty. It's a hand which occupies our lands, ignores the Palestinian national rights and for the last decades we have been suffering from this constant occupation," he said.

Such talk only adds to the suspicions of an already jittery Israeli government that fears it is being lured to a conference where all the other parties will gang up on it to force a withdrawal from occupied territories.

Israelis felt they had a chance at acceptance when

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who has built his career on a refusal to code "one clod of earth" of the territories occupied in the 1967 war, was told by the Israeli press to be gloomy as the conference approached.

Police Minister Ronni Milo, a confidant to Mr. Shamir, said Mr. Sharar's statement flashed a warning light for Israel.

The wave of support for peace efforts that welled up among ordinary Israelis in those two giddy days continued them through the difficult negotiations that followed until a peace treaty was signed in 1979.

This time, there is no such feeling in Israel. "Assad is no Sada," said a commentator in Israel's top-selling newspaper *Yedioth Ahronot* Thursday.

Israelis and Egyptians both feel disappointed with the peace they obtained in 1979, and this disappointment colours their suspicious attitude to the new peace moves.

Israelis feel they got a "cold peace," a peace without friendship. The Egyptians feel Israel exploited them to wage war on the Palestinians in Lebanon in 1982 and to crush the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories which erupted in December 1987.

As Mr. Baker arrived in Cairo earlier this week, Wagdi Abu Zekri, a senior commentator in the newspaper *Al Akhbar*, wrote:

"During World War II, Stalin the communist, entered an alliance with Churchill the colonialist and Truman the capitalist, to confront the Nazi threat. We hope that the Arabs will enter a similar alliance against their Zionist enemy."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Commander of PLO forces held in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — Government troops arrested the commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) forces in Lebanon on charges of being in the country illegally, a police source said Thursday. The source, speaking on condition not to be further identified, said Colonel Ali Afandi was arrested Tuesday evening aboard a boat, shortly before it was scheduled to leave the port of Jounieh in the Christian heartland of Kesrwan province north of Beirut. The army command and the PLO office in the southern refugee camp of Ain Al Hilweh withheld comment on the report. Mr. Afandi, 43, headed 6,000 hardcore PLO guerrillas in Lebanon before they were squeezed by government troops into refugee camps in South Lebanon early in July. The police source said Mr. Afandi was arrested on charges of illegal residence in Lebanon and resisting government troops. Further details were not available.

Italian premier apologises to Iran

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti has apologised to Tehran for an egg-throwing attack on the Iranian ambassador, his office said Thursday. On Sunday, three men beat the ambassador Hamid Abouzelebi with eggs filled with red ink as he prepared to receive a prize at an economic forum in Rimini on the Adriatic coast. "I trust this incident will not affect the good relations which exist between our two countries," Mr. Andreotti wrote in a letter sent Wednesday to Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. Mr. Abouzelebi, whose face and hands were splattered in the attack, rejected an earlier apology from the head of protocol at the Italian presidency, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said Monday. Citing "the apparent atmosphere of insecurity" in Italy, Iranian consulates in Rome and Milan stopped issuing visas, IRNA said.

Thais say Turkish banker died of drugs

BANGKOK (R) — A Turkish banker died of a heroin overdose while attending the World Bank-International Monetary Fund annual conference in Bangkok, Thai police said Thursday. Major General Tassana Suwanjutha, director general of the police institute of forensic medicine, told reporters that a post mortem found a lethal dose of heroin in the banker's blood. Yavuz Yavuz, the 31-year-old general manager of Turkey's Denizbank, was found dead in his room at Bangkok's Ambassador Hotel Wednesday night. Turkish Ambassador to Thailand Erdine Karasaman said he doubted very much if Mr. Yavuz had died of an overdose. "He was taken ill on Monday night with a headache and spent one night in hospital then he was released," the diplomat said. "There was no indication of any drug taking." He said he was waiting to see the official post mortem report. Another Turkish delegate to the meeting was in hospital suffering from a blood clot to the brain, IMF officials said. Ali Kaplan, general manager of Tekstibank, had complained of a headache after he had gone on stage to sing at a function at a hotel on Tuesday night, the officials said. He was in intensive care.

3 killed, several wounded in southeast Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Kurdish guerrillas killed three people and wounded several others in separate clashes in southeastern Turkey Thursday, security officials said. In Bingol province about 50 members of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) attacked a police station and a Gendarmerie post, killing one policeman and wounding several others before escaping. In the southeastern province of Murs, rebels attacked a police station and a police residence, killing one civilian and injuring others. The rebels shot dead a village guard near Diyarbakir and wounded four more. The PKK has killed 14 soldiers since Oct. 7, provoking Turkish retaliatory raids into northern Iraq. More than 3,300 people have died in the PKK's violent independence campaign in southeastern Turkey since 1984.

Mubarak discusses Mideast with Waldheim

VIENNA (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Austrian President Kurt Waldheim Thursday discussed the situation in the Middle East prior to the planned peace conference and the war in Yugoslavia, officials said. No details were revealed of the talks that were held only hours after Mr. Mubarak arrived here from Bonn for an official visit. At a dinner, Dr. Waldheim expressed Austria's support for the endeavour undertaken by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker towards convening an international conference on the Middle East. Dr. Waldheim called on Israel "to desist from erecting further settlements in occupied areas and thus remove a serious obstacle to peace." He and Austria sincerely hopes that Israel will ultimately accept the principle of "land for peace," which forms the basis for a settlement of the Middle East problem in accordance with relevant U.N. resolutions.

Bush defends Gulf war news curbs

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush said Thursday the American people were well-served by news coverage of the Gulf war. The coverage, which was heavily regulated by the U.S. Defense Department, was not perfect, the president acknowledged over a television hookup to the convention in Detroit of the Associated Press Managing Editors Association. But he added that "the American people felt that they got very strong, intrusive coverage of the war."

Kidnappers deny demanding guarantees

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese kidnappers holding two Americans and a Briton denied Friday demanding guarantees for their safety after their captives are freed. In a statement sent to an international news agency in Beirut with a photograph of American Terry Anderson, the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad (Holy War) said it would continue on its path of jihad. The statement made no mention of a hostage release. The photograph — an old man with a neatly-trimmed moustache and hair.

Upper/lower price in \$ per kg

Apple (R)	150/300
Banana (M)	50/100
Banana (L)	50/100
Orange (M)	50/100
Orange (L)	50/100

Market prices

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:40	Colombo (R)	86.00

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ELECTION RESULTS — The Jordanian Women's Federation elected its president and executive committee Friday, after over a year of internal strife between Marxist and secular women. The ladies elected Huda Abu Ghazaleh as their president. The other 8 members of the executive

committee which were elected all belonged to the Unity Block. The winners were Dr. Safa Qasem (above, right) Iman Shukralla, Amin Sharar, Janet Minati, Khatoun Katreff, Suhaila Bishwas, Aida Saba and Fatima Obaidat.

Officials welcome Saudi decision to open territory to Jordanian trucks

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Ministry of Transport's Research and Studies Department Mansour Shamout Friday welcomed the Saudi Arabian authorities' decision to allow Jordanian trucks to enter Saudi territories, saying that it represents a new opportunity for the land transport sector in Jordan to thrive.

The ban on the entry of Jordanian trucks to Saudi Arabia took effect nearly 15 months ago, when the Gulf crisis was at its peak.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Shamout voiced appreciation to the Saudi government for its decision, saying that the Jordanian land transport sector can now go back to its traditional markets in Saudi Arabia and the other countries of the

Gulf. He noted that the Saudi and Gulf markets are the ideal markets for Jordan's land transport sector, given Jordan's central geographic location and its economic relations with the Gulf countries.

He added that Jordan owns the largest refrigerated land transport fleet in the Middle East and was not meant only to serve Jordan, but also to the neighbouring Arab countries.

Mr. Shamout said his ministry would do its utmost to remove any obstacles that might hinder the smooth operation of the land transport fleet.

Meanwhile, members of the Jordanian Truck Owners Association expressed deep appreciation to the Saudi government for its decision to allow Jordanian trucks to enter its

territories and said it would contribute positively to strengthening the land transport movement between Jordan and the neighbouring countries.

The association's president, Qasem Al Saub, said the Saudi decision will strengthen the trade movement with the Gulf countries, as well as Yemen, Syria and Lebanon. He added that the Saudi decision also contributes towards strengthening the Arab economic and commercial march.

Mr. Saub said that the number of Jordanian trucks operating between Jordan and the neighbouring Arab countries is 12,000. He added that the revenues collected from the land transport fleet account for 12 per cent of the national income.

Art exhibition by three artists use colour intensity to achieve effects

By Maha Addine
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three artists whose works total 120 pieces and are currently on display at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation's gallery all have colour intensity in common in their art.

The sculptures, many with a theme of love, by Muhammad Hussein Abdullah and paintings by Khaled Khreis and Abdul Ra'ouf Shamoun all follow abstract art techniques.

The sculpture compositions by Mr. Abdullah are mostly made up of two figures, each constructed with male, female and animal shapes. He uses plaster, clay or bronze and often uses water colours and acrylic to give each of the 37 works that he has on display more character.

In a clay sculpture showing a skull of a bull's head, Mr. Abdullah uses colour only to enhance the sharp, symmetrical horns. The horns are painted golden.

In another plaster sculpture, a man is in a stance which indicates that he had just leapt back from a hazard of some kind. The source of danger is invisible but its presence is intensified by a horse standing on its hind legs facing the man. The sculpture is entirely white.

Yet another eye-catching work by the same artist is a seated figure resembling the right side of a female body painted royal blue. Next to this is an identical, right side of another female painted deep green. The components of this composition are streamlined in contour and appear very realistic.

The paintings by Mr. Khreis have bright colours, which are mostly earth tones, as he uses many yellows and browns. In contrast with that, he also uses pastel shades. In one of his paintings, Mr. Khreis shows the arches of what seems like a tunnel.



Exhibit by Khaled Khreis currently on display at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation

Surprisingly, though, the inside of the tunnel is pink and white when it is expected to be black or grey.

A feature unique to Mr. Khreis in this exhibition is his use of mixed media in a special way. It is noticeable in at least eight of his 33 pieces on display that the background is an actual newspaper with the abstract compositions painted to cover most of the paper. Although the papers may distract one from the actual composition, Mr. Khreis has managed with the strength of his subjects to create an effective balance between the background and foreground that stimulates the onlookers' imaginations.

The 120 pieces displayed are on sale and range in price between JD 75 and JD 650. The exhibition will continue until Oct. 27.

CORRECTION

In its Thursday's edition, the Jordan Times erroneously reported that China's ambassador to Jordan, Hahn Choon Lee, presented his credentials to His Majesty King Hussein. Mr. Hahn Choon Lee is ambassador of the Republic of Korea. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Art exhibition by Abdul Ra'ouf Shamoun, Khaled Khreis and Muhammad Hussein Abdullah at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
- ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Ismael Khayyat, Muhammad Abdullah, Khaled Mohamed, Ali Mansour, Khalid Wali and Hamed Ali at Bohemia Art Gallery (located at the beginning of Gerasa Street, from Salaway).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Jalees at the French Cultural Centre.

Court says trial will go on despite withdrawal by defendants' attorneys

Prophet Mohammad's Army members arrange for alternate representation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The State Security Court Thursday announced it was going ahead with the trial of 18 members of a militant group self-styled as Prophet Mohammad's Army, undeterred by the defense attorney's allegations about the legality of the procedures.

Lawyer Hussein Mjalli, who represents 13 of the defendants held for allegedly committing terrorist activities and plotting to destabilise state security, demanded that all the detainees be released as the investigations and the court trial itself were illegal.

Mr. Mjalli, who is also a member of the Lower House of Parliament, said that the arrest of the 18 militant group members took place after the abrogation of the martial law regulations in the country.

Judge Yousef Faouri said that the public intelligence and security services had apprehended the accused before the martial court regulations had been cancelled and that the investigations and judicial procedures against the accused had already been underway. The judge said that the present trial was to be regarded

as a continuation of the legal procedures taken in the case.

At the outset of the session it was announced that the defendant had made arrangements to have attorneys replace the 15 lawyers who had withdrawn from the case during last Monday's session in protest against the alleged torture of the accused during their detention.

The 18 group members standing trial have been accused of committing bombings, arson and plotting to assassinate government officials and foreign diplomats.

The defendants had pleaded not guilty to the charges levelled against them, reversing their earlier statements taken under interrogation.

The 15 lawyers who pulled out from the case had alleged that the detainees had admitted to committing the alleged crimes while under torture during interrogations.

Another lawyer, Jawad Yunis, who has been defending number of the accused, announced his withdrawal from the case after opposing the trial procedures. Mr. Yunis said that the accused were all held at a Military Re-

formatory Centre although none of the accused was military in character.

But the judge said that the allegations had no legal basis and were unrealistic. Judge Faouri said the allegations were considered a violation of the court's law and a direct contest of the integrity of the Jordanian judiciary system.

He warned the lawyer to refrain from levelling such accusations at the court or face legal procedures.

Later, the judge announced that the court's next session will be held on Monday.

Jordan, Poland sign cooperation agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Poland have signed a joint cooperation programme that paves the way for bilateral cooperation in cultural and scientific fields.

The two sides will open the way for the exchange of visits by scientists, researchers and publications and will encourage cooperation among educational institutions and universities in the two countries. They will also offer each other scholarships for students specialising in a number of fields.

The U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) marked this year's World Food Day by a slogan noting that saving trees will help feed the hungry.

It noted that many farmers have been destroying trees. At least 42 million acres of land are lost each year, most of it to farmers clearing land to grow crops, the FAO statement said.

The FAO estimated that one in every five people in the world, most of them children suffer from hunger and that 15 to 20 million people die every year from its effects and diseases affiliated to malnutrition.

The programme was signed at the Ministry of Planning

Council considering establishing federation that will include all farmers unions in country

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Agricultural Council on Sunday will discuss a draft law for the establishment of a Jordanian Farmers Federation that would replace the present Jordan Valley Farmers Association so as to cover all farmers unions in the country.

At the session, which will be chaired by Minister of Agriculture Sabri Al Qasem, matters related to promoting agricultural production, problems facing farmers and a national agricultural policy will be reviewed.

A Ministry of Agriculture official said that the question of holding agricultural exhibitions and specialised conferences and the publication of specialised agricultural gazettes will also be discussed.

Ministry officials said that the draft law will also include the establishment of nine specialised unions for farmers producing vegetables, cereals, olives, citrus and other fruit, poultry farmers, cattle breeders and meat.

Dr. Qasem said in a statement this week that Jordan produced 80 per cent of its food products in 1990 utilising only 27 per cent of its arable land. Most of the pro-

duction came from lands irrigated by underground or dam water, according to the minister.

In his statement, marking World Food Day, the minister said that Jordan's private and public sectors have been exerting tremendous efforts over the past 10 years to increase food production and the area of land covered by trees.

Jordan now produces fruit in great quantities in the Shobak region in southern Jordan and cereals in southeastern semi-and



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Destination Madrid ...and real peace

REASONABLENESS, common sense and patient diplomacy have prevailed: There is going to be an international peace conference on the Middle East and it is going to be held in Madrid on Oct. 30.

Even though the road is finally open for a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region, what remains to be done is stupendous in task and monumental in scope. The convening of the conference is but the first step in a thousand mile journey that we are just beginning to embark on.

This is indeed an historic moment in the life of this region and the world as a whole. To attempt to put it into proper perspective in any number of words, however, is an invitation to history to smile at us. History will need from those who attempt to write it to wait for reality to be borne before it can pass judgement on what this moment means to all of us.

Meanwhile, observations, no less baroque than history itself, can be made.

In listing them, theoretical patterns and logical grooves are better left out, since the occasion making history now warrants positive input and hopeful feedback. A precarious enterprise as the one we are attempting here requires reaching only those conclusions which are neither controversial nor transient in nature. On such basis we proceed.

□ The core of the Arab-Israeli conflict has always been the Palestinian problem. Until the Israelis and the Palestinians sat together to negotiate a solution to their problem, nothing was ever going to be solved. The peace conference will provide the right umbrella for those talks and will thus serve as a rare opportunity to bring about not only an historic reconciliation between the two peoples but also between Israelis and Arabs, Muslims and Jews.

□ The land-for-peace formula, which has long been touted as the key to Arab-Israeli peace, will be put to the ultimate test. The impending talks will be substantive and promising when they centre on finding a mechanism for implementing the formula, and more self-delusions if they will not.

□ The conference will be more like a desert mirage without the active participation and involvement of the international community led by the United States. Washington is about the only power in the world that has the key to unlocking Israel's intransigence on the question of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. In return for American pressure on Israel to pull its troops out, the Arab side should be willing and able to convince all, especially the U.S. and Israel, that real and genuine peace is the Arab World's ultimate goal.

□ While peace, stability and security in this region are in themselves a natural choice for the peoples of the Middle East, as indeed elsewhere, everybody should know that the triangle cannot be drawn by ink and on paper alone. There will have to be justice for all, economic support and development programmes for those who need them, in order to ensure that any peaceful settlement will be enduring and comprehensive. Extremism, violence and hatred mostly have their roots in injustice done unto peoples and in economic deprivation as is clearly the case in this part of the world. The peace conference will be largely academic unless the conflict's human dimensions and impact on the lives of the region's peoples are placed on top of the agenda at every stage.

Reasonableness, common sense and the desire for peace have won, and the beginning of a new era should start at Madrid in 11 days' time. It should be a one-way street towards peace from there.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

TO escape from the full implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution 242, Israel is seeking to link that resolution to the so-called secure borders issue, said Al Ra'i's Arabic daily. There is no doubt that in their talks with the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the Israelis have been stressing this point because, and according to a number of Israeli officials, the U.S. administration has concluded an understand dealing with the Arabs to secure Israel's withdrawal to the pre-1967 border lines, the paper said. Israel does not wish to abandon the occupied Arab territories, claiming that they form secure boundaries, providing protection to the Jewish state though it realises that 1973 had shattered the myth of secure borders, the paper pointed out. It said that throughout its wars with the Arabs, and during the 25 years of occupation of Arab territory, Israel has not been able to ensure for itself security against attacks. In light of the previous experiences and the events over the past three decades, one can only say that the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which ensures the rights of all parties to the conflict can alone provide security for the Jewish state, the paper said. It said that the advanced weapons and the modern technology have destroyed the myth of secure borders for any country in the world. Should the Israelis accept the idea of implementing Resolution 242, said the paper, they would be choosing the right path towards security and lasting peace with their Arab neighbours.

DWELLING on the same theme Sawt Al Shabab daily said that Israeli leaders are appalled by the idea that the U.S. administration is serious about the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions in order to bring about peace to the Middle East. For this reason, the paper said, the ongoing wrangling within the Israeli government is unprecedented, ever since the Israeli troops occupied the Arab lands in the 1967 war. The paper said that the Shamir government feels disappointed and betrayed by the U.S. administration in light of the letters of assurances Washington has passed on to the Arabs to encourage them to advance to the peace conference. The Shamir government is also disturbed by the continued pressure it is receiving from the European Community countries to reach peace with the Arabs and recognise the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland, the paper added.

Bush-Shamir showdown makes American Jews face 'ignored realities'

By Arthur Hertzberg

FOR the first time, an administration in Washington has linked further American generosity toward Israel to Israel's willingness to stop further settlements on the West Bank. The government in Israel and officials of American Jewish organisations have reacted by denouncing President George Bush for using a humanitarian cause, the need to finance the settlement of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews, as a weapon in his battle against Yitzhak Shamir's expansionist policies. But these denunciations fail to conceal the real issue, which is whether American-backed aid is to finance the absorption of the West Bank into Israel, thus making an eventual exchange of territory for peace impossible. Both the Israeli government and the leaders of American Jewish organisations know that, whether a peace conference soon takes place or not, the long-predicted fight over the future of the territories that Israel acquired in the war of June 1967 has finally begun.

For months signals from Washington have made it clear that the Bush administration has lost patience with the policies of the Shamir government. Israel's ambassador in Washington, Zalman Shoval, a political appointee who was formerly a Likud member of the Knesset, said bluntly in June, in an interview on Israeli radio, that the government would have to choose between more West Bank settlements and American aid. Several cabinet ministers bitterly denounced him, although he was simply reporting on the Bush administration's policies, and his warning was only one of several signs in recent months of growing disaffection in Washington. Why did the administration harden its position, and why did the Israelis and the American Jewish organisations disregard the signals and head into confrontation?

The administration, for its part, came to the conclusion that the present government, the most right wing in Israel's history, intends to hold on to the West Bank and Gaza, and the Golan Heights, at any cost. During the last fifteen years some U.S. officials were drawn to theories that "only the Likud can make peace," that only the right wing could lead Israel to territorial compromise. These have turned out to be false, as did the notion that supposedly moderate right-wingers — Yitzhak Shamir is sometimes cast in this role — would strike a deal if they did not have to depend for a majority in the Knesset on the extremists — such as Gavriel Cohen and Rehavam Zeevi — who oppose the slightest concession to the Palestinians. The Labour Party has said it would support Mr. Shamir against any vote of no confidence if he were to move toward a

policy of "territories for peace." Mr. Shamir has ignored this offer. In 1979, when he was speaker of the Knesset, he voted against the Camp David agreement because he thought its provisions for autonomy for Palestinians on the West Bank would lead inexorably to the creation of a Palestinian state. He has made clear his belief that Jewish failure to settle the West Bank will lead to the same result.

Mr. Shamir was warned recently in private by several leaders of American Jewish organisations and by some friendly congressmen that defying Mr. Bush's appeal for a delay in considering loan guarantees would risk a confrontation with the U.S. Instead he persisted in encouraging his supporters in the U.S. to make an issue of the guarantees now, and pressed his allies in Congress to introduce legislation to stop any delay. Yosef Harif, the journalist whom Mr. Shamir uses to leak some of his views, wrote in Ma'ariv on Sept. 13 that Mr. Shamir would not be upset if the confrontation stopped the peace conference from taking place at all. The leak had at least two implications: Mr. Shamir was trying to warn the Americans that the loan guarantees were part of his price for attending the conference, and he made it clear in Israel that he had not modified his intransigence over the territories, the idea of "territories for peace," which Mr. Shamir has always rejected, was for many years the policy backed by the Israeli government and by most moderate Jewish leaders in the U.S. In demanding that the American Jewish establishment not only accept Mr. Shamir's position but directly challenge the U.S. government over it, the right-wing Israeli leaders are depending on longstanding feelings of inferiority and deference on the part of diaspora Jews towards the Holy Land that are little acknowledged but are very deep nonetheless.

The sense that diaspora Jews are in some sense lesser Jews than those living in Zion is explicit in prayer books and in the whole structure of traditional Jewish law. Those who dwell in Zion are, by definition, the more godly. The secular Israelis of today have translated this notion into the view that the diaspora owes deference to the Israelis because they and their children have fought the wars of Israel, while those in the diaspora have merely provided money and political support. Very soon after the state of Israel was created, its first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, insisted that true Zionists were those who lived in Israel or were planning to do so, and that all other Jews were a lesser breed, "friends of Israel" who could earn Jerusalem's approval by the intensity of their support. Throughout the centuries, those who provided the money for the

residents to serve his country and said that Jordan's participation in the coming conference would be another attempt on the King's part to serve the Palestinians and their just and sacred cause.

Haim Kheri said that the Jordanian people have realised that their King was exerting all efforts for Palestine and was working in the spirit of the Great Arab Revolt.

George Haddad, who writes for Al Ra'i daily, said that it was strange to see Arab parties

wishing to meet with the Israeli

and end the Middle East problems at a time when they find it difficult to come together and discuss a unified stand before the conference.

The writer noted in particular a statement by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who said that he did not support the idea of convening a meeting by various concerned parties to unify the Arab stand.

Al Ra'i daily described the

King's address to the nation

announcing Jordan's decision as

positive and reflecting the King's

endeavours to end the suffering of the Palestinian people.

The support for the King, the

paper said, reflects the people's

desire to live in peace and to see the Palestinians' rights restored.

A guest columnist in Sawt Al

Shabab reviewed the King's en-

deavours to serve his country and said that Jordan's participation in the coming conference would be another attempt on the King's part to serve the Palestinians and their just and sacred cause.

This attitude, in its contemporary, secular, version, dominates the financial and even the political relationship between Israel and Jews living elsewhere. The centuries-old archetypes that govern the relationship between Israel and the diaspora are even echoed in the rhetoric with which Israel defines its connection to the United States. Israel expects the Israeli press to carry a report that the prime minister had received an assessment by Israel's combined intelligence services that holding on to the entire West Bank would, in fact, threaten Israel's security, and that Israel would be better off retaining only several vantage points that would enable it to deter or destroy any possible attack.

A few hours after this news broke in the Hebrew press, I happened to meet the British press baron Robert Maxwell in a television studio where we and others were to debate the meaning of "solidarity" with Israel. He insisted that there was no such report since, at the closing session of the solidarity meeting, the prime minister had denied its existence. I said that if he repeated this view on the air, I would simply read from the newspapers in front of me, which quoted from the text of the intelligence report. He was silent. But it was soon clear to me that most of the American delegates to the conference would go home either not knowing of the intelligence assessment, or if they did, thinking experts, on ideological grounds, were none of their business. They felt it was their task to put the best face no whatever the government was doing.

Recently Ha'aretz, Israel's most distinguished newspaper, has vehemently opposed Mr. Shamir's policy of confrontation with the United States. Its senior columnist and chairman of the editorial board, Dr. Walter Gross, who uses the pen name Poles, wrote in early September that, despite the peace treaty with Egypt, the basic error of all Israeli governments since 1967 has been to hold on to the West Bank and Gaza. He wrote:

We must recognise that the world agreed to the creation of a Jewish state only on the condition of a partition of the land; be who holds fast to the slogan "not one foot shall be given back" is both strengthening our enemies and alienating friends.

Another editorial in Ha'aretz challenged the claim of Mr. Shamir and his coalition partners that the Americans had no right to stop Israel from using American money for measures which they believe are "contrary to the interests of the United States in the region." In Ha'aretz's view, Mr. Shamir would not have the support of a majority of Israelis if he persisted in his confrontation with the U.S. Ha'aretz warned that even if Mr. Shamir succeeds

in obtaining the loan guarantees he wants without making any change in his policies on the West Bank and Gaza, those who support him should "remember that a Shamir victory means the founding of a bi-national state in place of a Jewish state, Israel." That is, holding onto the territories means that Israel would have an Arab population of 40 percent, and nearly two million Arabs could not be held in permanent subjection and denied political rights without destroying Israel's claims to be a democratic state.

The real extent and impact of Israel's settlement policies have also been hidden from diaspora opinion. Some of the most knowledgeable American officials who monitor the West Bank have, indeed, professed exaggerated admiration for the skill with which the Israelis have concealed the reality of the settlements, both from their own people and from the Americans. The central fact is that, using various administrative formulas to do so, the state of Israel has now asserted control over more than half of the land of the West Bank. Less than half of this land is being used directly for settlements. A substantial part is used by the military, but much of the rest has simply been set aside for future use, above all for new settlements. This means that the Arab population of the West Bank — estimated by the Israeli army to be approximately 1.3 million people — is now contained within less land than the Israeli government has allocated to itself for both its own purposes and for the 100,000 current Jewish settlers, with hundreds of thousands more to come if the plan of General Sharon, the minister of housing, are carried out. As for the proportionate distribution of the water supply, reliable statistics are hard to find, but virtually every Israeli newspaper has published feature articles describing how Arab farms are drying up for lack of water, while Jewish settlements adjoining their land have full swimming pools.

The financial costs of the settlement policy in the West Bank and Gaza are also concealed. In August, State Department Middle East experts wrote a "confidential" paper, which soon leaked, summarising the main facts about the West Bank and Gaza for members of Congress. The department experts found that no more than \$8 million in Israel's annual budget were overtly assigned to building more housing on the West Bank. But, as the report suggested, the real annual cost of West Bank settlement is many times the published figure. The road-building programme in the West Bank is a case in point. Israel has the largest amount of traffic per kilometre of roads of any country in the world, as well as the highest accident rate per capita of population. Still, less

criticised by Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker for refusing even to consider territorial compromise.

There is a pathetic aspect of these contradictory attitudes, and to the way the Shamir government has been using them for its own purposes. The most devastating criticism I have seen of Mr. Shamir's manipulation of American Jews was written by Haim Hefer, whose column in Yedioth Acharonot is the most widely read in Israel. In an article entitled "Hostages", on Sept. 20, he accused the Shamir government of using tactics of political adventurism to take the American Jewish community hostage. The American Jews responded, Hefer continued, even though what was requested of them "contradicted both reason and morality." But Israel insisted that American Jews had to get into a conflict with President Bush, "to support the untruths that the Israeli government is throwing in its face."

Mr. Shamir, Hefer continued, is even reminding American Jews that they did not do enough during the Nazi years, and therefore they have no right to ask any questions now. Hefer then recalled that Lehi, the ultra-right-wing group, of which Mr. Shamir was deputy commander in the 1940s, had itself tried to make a pact with the Nazis against the British Israel, in Hefer's view, is sending the Jews of America, "our faithful brothers," into a battle "in which most of them do not believe," to build a few more Jewish settlements on the West Bank. Hefer concluded his indictment by calling on Jews in America not to listen to the Shamir government, which is "abusing their love" for Israel.

Hefer's column was translated into English on the very day of its appearance by the American embassy in Tel Aviv, which produces texts or summaries for its own staff, and for Washington, of everything of any consequence in all of Israel's dailies. Paradoxically, therefore, American government leaders are better informed about what Israelis are thinking than American Jewish leaders, who devote their energies to the cause of Israel, and who come to Washington to lobby for it. It seems highly doubtful that they really know what the right-wing government has been doing in the occupied territories and what many Israelis think of it. The Jewish leaders might have spared themselves some of their current anguish over the conflict with the American government if they had insisted on learning facts that are now becoming harder and harder to avoid. The confrontation between Mr. Bush and Mr. Shamir is forcing American Jews to face reality and to make up their minds, at last, on Israel's annexationist policy in the occupied territories. — The New York Review.

Another economist warned the various trade unions against waging strikes at a time when Jordan is facing serious challenges on the external and domestic fronts. Mohammad Saleh Jaber said that although the idea of strikes is acceptable in most advanced nations which believe in democracy, and although strikes are not banned in Jordan, one has first to examine the country's economic situation and understand that the state is in no position to offer salary increases under the present circumstances for obvious reasons, known to all people.

A writer in Sawt Al Shabab drew the readers' attention to the plight of the farmers of the Jordan Valley region and said they are faced with the problem of having to buy agricultural requirements at soaring prices. He also drew attention to the farmers' problems of marketing, having limited water for irrigation, and poor living conditions.

Dr. Fawzi Tusein, who is also a member of the Lower House of Parliament, said that the Jordan Valley is the backbone of the country's economy since it produces most of the crops that earn the Kingdom its foreign currency. He urged the government and the Jordanian society as a whole to offer assistance to the farmers so that they could continue to shoulder their responsibilities.

The Week in Print

Success of peace process depends on U.S.

THE peace process dominated the themes of the editorials and the columns written in the past week. The position of Arab countries, the ongoing events in the Arab World and Iraq as well as domestic issues were all discussed in the press.

Under the banner: "The Greatest Responsibility of the World's Only Superpower," a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that people in the Middle East are hopeful that the current U.S. efforts to establish peace based on justice and the implementation of U.N. resolutions will be crowned with success.

Mahmoud Al Rimi said that American Secretary of State James Baker is expected to overcome all the difficulties standing in the way of convening the peace conference which the Arabs hope would restore Arab rights and justice.

Al Ra'i daily said that if the United States' plan fails, a severe blow will have been dealt to its credibility and the future of the region would be gloomy. The paper said that the United States must pursue efforts for peace despite the Israeli government's objections.

Al Dastour daily described the King's address to the nation announcing Jordan's decision as positive and reflecting the King's endeavours to end the suffering of the Palestinian people.

The support for the King, the paper said, reflects the people's desire to live in peace and to see the Palestinians' rights restored.

A guest columnist in Sawt Al Shabab reviewed the King's en-

deavours to serve his country and said that the paper said that the two sides are reaffirming to the world the fact that the Palestinians and the Jordanians constitute one integrated entity and are setting an example of good and brotherly ties among Arab countries.

Fahd Al Faneek said in Al Ra'i that it was a shameful thing for the Arabs to see Israeli warplanes violating Iraq's air space without lifting a finger in protest. The writer said that it was more shameful for the Arabs to learn that the warplanes had flown over three Arab countries on their way to Iraq.

This view was backed

Peace conference to begin Oct. 30

(Continued from page 1)

an era marked by cooperation not by conflict and the hope of an era marked by hope itself and not despair," Mr. Baker said.

Face-to-face talks between Israel and the Arabs would begin four days after the conference opened, Mr. Baker said.

The invitations cover eight months of shuttle diplomacy by Mr. Baker, who was determined to exploit the shake-up in the Middle East caused by the Gulf war, and the decline of Soviet influence among the Arab states.

Mr. Baker said the conference would be followed by "direct negotiations designed to achieve real peace."

He said that on multilateral negotiations, which are to consider issues such as arms control and water use, "the parties wishing to participate in those negotiations should meet within two weeks after the opening of the conference" to begin organising for talks.

Syria has expressed reservations about the multilateral talks, saying it hesitates to participate in them until it is sure the peace negotiations will succeed.

Mr. Baker noted that earlier Friday, Mr. Pankin announced that the Soviet Union was restoring diplomatic ties with Israel after a 24-year break because of the 1967 war.

"I think our joint presence here today represents something more," Mr. Baker said, then announced that invitations would be issued to the conference.

Mr. Pankin, in turn, said "I fully share" in the call for the peace conference.

"The stage we have come to represents a very important turning point for the Middle East."

Shamir indicates cabinet approval

(Continued from page 1)

refusal to attend regional talks on issues like disarmament and water conservation.

The Syrian position is absolutely negative and doesn't promise success," he said.

"But nevertheless we decided to go to these negotiations and if the negotiations with Syria don't succeed it will be clear to all who is to blame for the failure."

At a separate news conference, Foreign Minister David Levy implied that the Palestinian issue would present no problem, but said another issue remained to be

Sharon: U.S. wants to force Israel

(Continued from page 1)

no question of land for peace and insisted that Palestinians already had a state.

"Jordan is Palestine," he said.

"We will never agree to the establishment of a second Arab Palestinian state in addition to the one which already exists in Palestine east of the River Jordan."

Mr. Sharon spoke of the possibility of Iran and Arab governments developing nuclear weapons.

"Today we know as little about this subject just as little as governments and surveillance, and supervision authorities in the world knew until a few weeks ago about the Iraqi nuclear program," he said.

"It would therefore be logical

Mystery surrounds final shape

(Continued from page 1)

before he met Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Friday but Mr. Baker did not show it to the Israelis.

Mr. Baker said he got a list of Palestinians who answer in general to the requirements we presented," Mr. Shamir said. "I generally believe him but as representatives of a state we cannot leave it at that and we will find ways of checking it," Mr. Shamir added.

Palestinians insisted on choosing their own delegates and demanded Mr. Baker not give the names to Israel. Mr. Baker in return urged the Palestinians not to choose people they knew Israel would reject.

Mr. Arafat has thrown his weight behind the peace conference and Syrian officials later said he would be going to Damascus within 48 hours to take part in a summit with the leaders of all the Arab participants.

Bassem Abu Sharif, the political adviser to Mr. Arafat, said the names included seven participants and seven alternates.

He said Mr. Husseini will announce the names of the Palestinian delegates in Jerusalem. He did not say when the announcement will be made.

Mr. Abu Sharif said the participants are:

— Freij Abu Medien, a lawyer from the Gaza Strip and head of the Gaza Bar Association;

— Zakaria Al Agha, a physician from the Gaza Strip and head of the Gaza Medical Association;

— Radwan Abu Ayash of the Askar refugee camp in Nablus, former head of the Arab Journalists Association;

— Ghassan Al Khatib, a professor from Ramallah;

— Mandooh Al Iker, a physician from Hebron;

— Sami Kilani, a professor from the village of Yab Bed; and

— Zuhair Kamal of Ramallah.

Mr. Abu Sharif did not give the names of the seven alternates — Dr. Iker, Mr. Kilani, Dr. Agha and Ms. Kamal as well as another five Palestinian activists met with Mr. Baker in Jerusalem Friday.

Mr. Abu Sharif said Mr. Husseini and Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, who have been negotiating peace conference terms with Mr. Baker, would be consultants to the Palestinian delegation but not have any part of it.

Mr. Pankin rallied the PCC behind the idea of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation after extensive talks Thursday.

Mr. Pankin met Mr. Baker for two hours before going to the

Jordan welcomes conference

(Continued from page 1)

"The PLO has decided to take part in the peace conference proposed by presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev" in a joint delegation, he told Reuters after the vote on Friday.

PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman said the PLO would be directing the delegation from the scenes.

"The PLO has taken the decision to participate, and the PLO remains the delegation's point of reference, for its composition and the names of its members," he told Reuters.

State council members voted for participation, 15 voted against and three abstained.

The final decision reflected positions set out by the PNC.

The council made a major concession by agreeing to attend the conference without insisting that the creation of new Jewish settlements on the West Bank, Gaza Strip and in East Jerusalem be halted when the conference starts.

The United States has given assurances it will continue to pressure Israel to freeze the settlements during the conference and spokesman Rahman said on this issue the PLO was taking a "calculated risk."

"This question is still explosive. It is inconceivable that we stay at the conference table to talk of international legality if the creation of settlements continues," he said.

The United States would like the

Israeli foreign ministry to sign the protocols formalising diplomatic relations which had gradually been revived since 1987 under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Soviet Union was for years the main arms supplier to the Arab states but last year established consular relations with the Jewish state.

The signing took place only an hour before the start of the Jewish Sabbath when all official Israeli business is suspended.

Until the last minute it was unclear whether the snag in Mr. Baker's peace efforts would prevent the restoration of Israeli-Soviet ties.

In Moscow Thursday, TASS news agency had quoted Mr. Gorbachev as saying the Soviet Union was on the verge of establishing relations with Israel.

It did not say the aim was to sign

peace treaties between Israel and its neighbours as Israel had demanded.

The Israelis say that Arab states may want to stop short of establishing full peace and would rather settle for non-belligerency agreements.

This was one point Israel wanted to be included in the letter of assurances it will receive from the United States.

The official said Mr. Baker agreed to 33 changes requested by Israel in the text of the letter but turned down a further seven changes.

American Jews face 'ignored realities'

(Continued from page 4)

money is being spent on road building to remove such congestion than is allocated for road construction on the West Bank. A master plan is being carried out under which it will be possible to drive to and among the settlements without ever passing through an Arab village. In part, this programme is an easier to throw rocks at a passing Jewish car from the side of an open road than from a village alley. But the network of roads also means that, in the long run, Jews will be able to live on the West Bank in a separate world of their own.

This summer, Mr. Sharon's Ministry of Housing announced that during the next two years it plans to double the Jewish population on the West Bank to about two hundred thousand people.

The Palestinians could upset Israel by making statements about their links with the PLO.

The official said the invitation to the conference stated that the aim of the negotiations was to achieve "real peace, genuine peace and reconciliation."

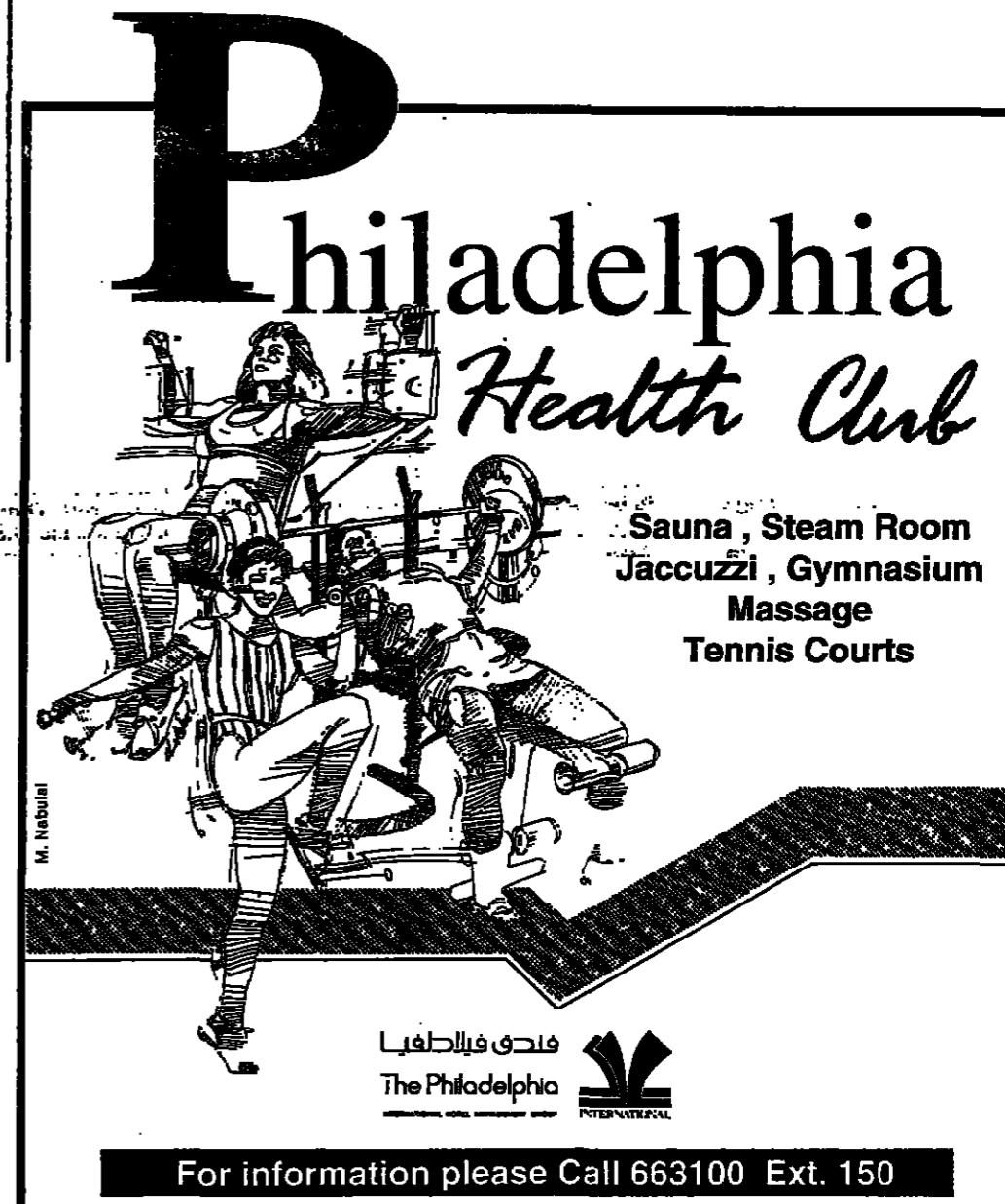
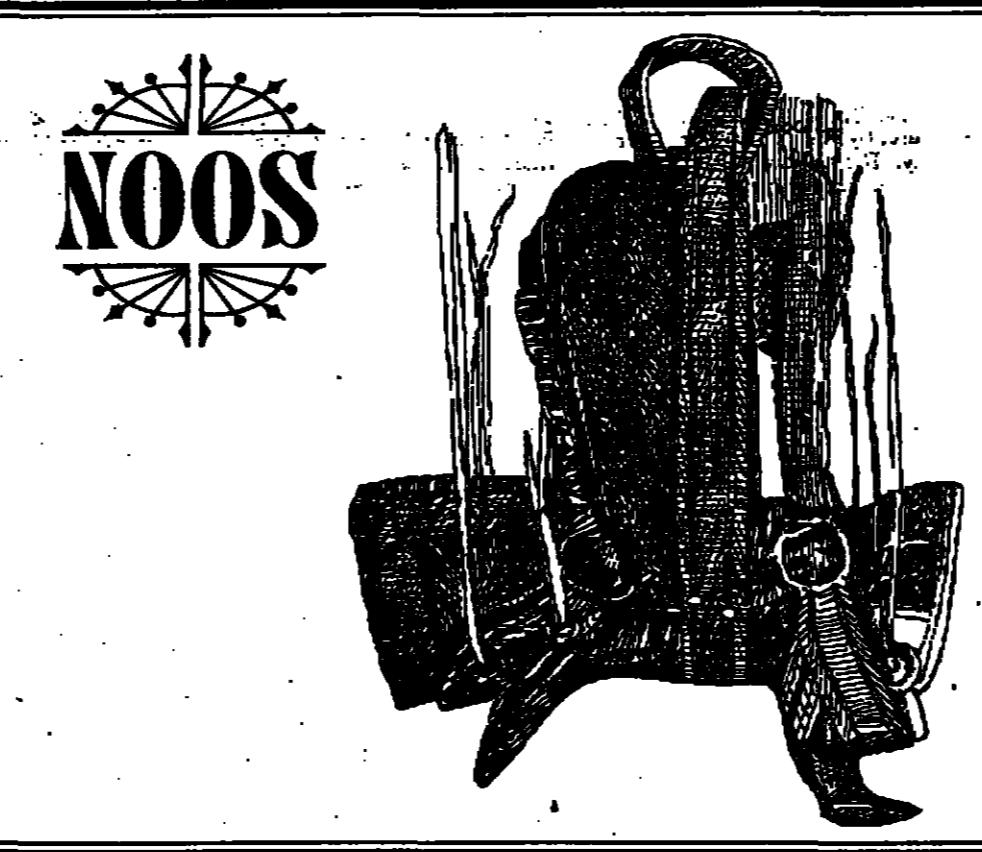
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Jewish opinion in the United States has not, to my knowledge, been recently measured in a major poll, but I have heard of surveys by Jewish organisations in which a minority of about 20 per cent in favour of the undivided land of Israel, even at the cost of a bitter fight with the administration in Washington. Virtually all American Jews want to help the Soviet Jews, and most are uneasy at the thought of being in the middle of a dispute between Washington and Jerusalem. A strong majority is for territorial compromise; but an equally strong majority is unhappy to see Israel's government



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Jordan Times

Olympic organisers defend venue selection process

SYDNEY (R) — Olympic organisers made it clear Friday they would resist growing pressure from international sports bodies wanting a greater say in the running of the games.

"The present system is not perfect but it does have a number of advantages," Francois Carrard, the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) director-general, told the annual congress of leading sports administrators here.

The IOC, whose 94 delegates choose the venues for the winter and summer Olympics, have come under criticism for the way they select the host city and in particular the lobbying process and the high cost.

The IOC, at its July session in Birmingham, England, agreed to set up a working group to look into ways of improving the selection method.

But Carrard said that if the IOC involved the international sports federations and National Olympic Committees it would create more problems.

"We are aware that the present system and structures are certainly far from being perfect... but it's the least of all evils," said Switzerland's Carrard.

If the federations and national committees also voted "you would have to lobby hundreds, maybe thousands of people around the world," he said.

International rowing chief John Boultinge criticised the IOC for not asking international federations to advise on the facilities in bidding cities.

"There should be a formal procedure whereby each candidate city must have a certificate from each international federation that their facilities are suitable," Mr. Boultinge, the Australian secretary-general of the International Federation of Rowing Association (IFRA), told the 350 delegates.

The IOC, reacting to these concerns and the lavish spending by bidding cities, has drawn up rules for the venues competing for the right to host the 2000 games — Sydney, Manchester, Berlin, Peking, Brasilia, Milan

and Istanbul.

Receptions and cocktail parties for IOC delegates have been banned, spending on gifts has been limited to \$200, exhibitions and demonstrations on the day before voting have been dropped and bid-book documents must be on regular A4 paper.

Cities can be disqualified for serious or repeated breaches of these regulations.

The decision on the venue for the 2000 games will be made by an IOC secret ballot in October 1993.

Meanwhile, an Australian aboriginal group lobbied the leading international sports officials Friday in a bid to have Sydney barred from hosting the Olympic Games in the year 2000.

A five-member delegation from the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) handed a letter critical of the treatment of aborigines in Australia to Un Yong Kim, president of the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) which is holding its annual congress.

Mr. Kim told the Sydney-based group he would circulate the letter among the 75 sporting bodies belonging to the association.

The letter called on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to exclude Australia from bidding for the games because of "appalling" treatment of aborigines.

The racial overtones that have disqualified South Africa are repeated "hundredfold" here in Australia," the letter said.

Delegation head and aboriginal lawyer Paul Coe said the IOC had a duty to judge a country's suitability for the Olympics not just on its ability to host sporting events.

"In our view Australia is not a suitable host country because it consistently violates the rights of aboriginal people," Mr. Coe said.

Mr. Coe quoted a World Council of Churches report earlier this year which said the poor living conditions of some aborigines equated to "genocide," and said several Australian inquiries this year had concluded that racism against aborigines was institutionalised.

Sydney is one of six cities to

announce a bid to host the games.

John Coates, president of Australia's Olympic Committee, who also met the delegation, said he did not accept that there was a parallel with South Africa.

"It's nonsense to compare Australia with South Africa," Mr. Coates said.

Earlier the IOC appealed to world sports bodies to help South Africa's return to the international arena following its readmission to the Olympic Movement in July.

"We know that South Africa still has many, many problems... we hope that you will all help," Carrard told the GAISF General Assembly meeting.

Carrard's plea, on behalf of IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, reflected the difficulties which have confronted the republic in competing internationally since the IOC decision.

"There are still difficulties with reunification (of sporting bodies) on a non-racial basis. It's an extremely difficult task," Mr. Carrard told leaders of Olympic and non-Olympic sports bodies.

South Africa's Olympics chief, Sam Ramsamy, said here Wednesday that sports bodies which had not unified might be barred from competing in Barcelona.

The republic's Olympics committee is to decide on Nov. 3 whether it will participate in Spain despite its readmission by the IOC after more than 20 years in the wilderness.

Mr. Carrard said the simple fact of readmitting South Africa would not solve its problems. "Nothing can be changed overnight," he said.

Mr. Ramsamy, here are the delegate for the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOCSA), said a number of sports bodies were not integrated and re-entry to international sport would be selective.

The heads of two rival South African athletics groupings said Wednesday they were confident of unifying their organisations and establishing a non-racial code in time to send a team to Barcelona.

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Yugoslav army attacks continue in Croatia despite new ceasefire

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Fierce fighting raged throughout secessionist Croatia early Friday, and thousands of refugees fled the violence.

Another ceasefire was agreed upon Friday, following nine that have failed.

Artillery exchanges were reported around the besieged Croatian Danube River town of Vukovar and in central Croatia around Novska and Nova Gradiska.

Radio Belgrade claimed that Serbian-dominated federal forces and Serb rebels had repelled Croatian attacks in those areas and had advanced in several sectors.

The Croatian government said it had no complete and reliable casualty figures, but 15 to 20 people were believed to have been killed and dozens injured in action across the secessionist republic.

At the peace negotiations Friday in the Hague, a Dutch Foreign Ministry official said a truce was agreed — the 10th such effort to halt the fighting.

The Foreign Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Serbian and Croatian presidents both ordered an immediate halt to hostilities.

However, previous ceasefires

have collapsed quickly.

In a smaller-scale accord, the army and Croatian officials agreed on a new attempt to send a medical relief convoy to Vukovar, Croatian's deputy defence minister said. An EC-led convoy failed to reach Vukovar's centre Monday and turned back.

A Croatian official, Stevan Adanic, also said the Croats and the army had agreed on a ceasefire in and around Vukovar, set to begin Friday afternoon and last through the weekend.

Vukovar has been cut off from the rest of Croatia for about a month. No outsider has been known to visit since then.

Non-Communist Croatia, which declared independence on June 25 along with neighbouring Slovenia, fears expansionism by Socialist Serbia, the largest of Yugoslavia's six republics which dominates the central government and military.

More than 1,000 people have died in the ethnic fighting in Croatia, where ethnic Serbs increasingly backed by the federal army have seized more than one-third of the republic.

The latest onslaught apparently reflected the desire of the federal army and Serb rebels to weaken Croatian resolve.

In the latest violence:

— Vukovar and its suburbs were again under army fire early Friday, said defence officials, confirming a radio report.

— Vinkovci, another Croatian city, was being shelled and the local hospital, already badly damaged, was again hit, the officials said.

— Pakrac in central Croatia, scene of battles over the last few days, was rocketed by Yugoslav Air Force planes Friday morning, the Defence Ministry in Zagreb said. It gave no casualty figures.

— An artillery attack was launched on Nova Gradiska, about 140 kilometres southwest of Zagreb, where Croatian radio said nine people were killed in fighting Thursday. There was no official confirmation.

Belgrade Radio said artillery fire also was reported during the night on the approaches to the medieval walled city of Dubrovnik, a tourist centre on Croatia's southern coast.

Villages north of Dubrovnik were under an infantry attack and shells fell close to the old town harbour Friday, Croatian Radio said, but defence officials did not provide details of damage or casualties.

Army units were reported in Belgrade to have advanced to Plat, only eight kilometres from Dubrovnik, which is considered one of the best surviving examples of medieval architecture in Europe.

The city's walled medieval centre was not hit, said the Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug.

On Thursday, up to 8,000 Croat men, women and children were evacuated from Illok, a Croatian town 32 kilometres downstream for Vukovar. Illok lies on an indefensible spit of land jutting deep into Serbia.

About 60 Croatian policemen and 400 members of the republic's paramilitary National Guard joined the exodus after surrendering hundreds of automatic rifles, machine guns and mortars to a company of federal military policemen.

More than 300,000 people on both sides have fled their homes since Croatia's secessionist war erupted nearly four months ago, Tanjug said Wednesday.

Many of Croatia's 600,000 Serbs say they do not want to remain in an independent Croatia, fearing they will suffer a similar fate as the thousands slaughtered by Croatia's Nazi puppet government in World War II.

Armenian nationalist wins presidency in landslide

NATO: No nuclear-free Europe despite big cuts

TAORMINA, Sicily (R) — NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said Friday Europe could never become a nuclear-free zone despite landmark decisions to make huge cuts in the Soviet and alliance arsenals.

Mr. Woerner and some NATO defence ministers, including U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, also insisted the U.S.-led alliance would remain in charge of Western security and raised questions about a controversial Franco-German plan to set up a more independent European forces.

"Nuclear weapons will never be disengaged," Mr. Woerner told a news conference at the end of a two-day alliance defence ministers meeting in this Sicilian resort.

"That is why I do not foresee a situation where we will demilitarise Europe," he added. "These weapons provide the ultimate guarantee of our security," Mr. Cheney agreed.

The ministers decided at the meeting to slash NATO's nuclear arsenal of more than 3,500 warheads by 30 per cent, because of the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has announced similar plans.

But the ministers said they needed to keep a few hundred nuclear aircraft bombs to guarantee peace in Europe.

Mr. Woerner said the decision was an important step on the way to a Rome summit of alliance leaders next month, which will give formal blessing to a new NATO strategy for the post-cold war era.

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